Oklahoma Chess Monthly

OCTOBER 2018

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

The Ludus Scaccorum

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The Riddle of the Chess Sphinx

by Tom Braunlich

One of the fascinating things about chess is that its riddles are not limited to tactical problems. Just perusing its deep history can reveal subtle mysteries that must be solved!

Recently while researching chess info in some old chess periodicals from the mid-1800s online, I came across the beautiful image above. A chess-playing Sphinx!

It was unexplained, as if the editor thought everyone knew what it was!

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I decided to find out more and encountered one of those little chess enigmas that can lead one on a historical scavenger hunt. Searching online for the image didn't turn up anything. So I started by seeing if I could translate the cryptic motto on the drawing, obviously written in Latin. I pieced together a translation:

EX ORIENTE LUX ET LUDUS SCACCORUM

=

"FROM THE EAST COMES LIGHT, AND THE GAME OF CHESS."

Delving deeper, I found that this phrase was packed with meaning, dating back centuries, not just some pretty-sounding Latin slogan made up by the artist.

First of all, the phrase "Ex Oriente Lux" ("From the East comes Light") turned out to be a common expression dating back to at least the Middle Ages. It is more than just the fact the sun rises in the East. It is more than just a cryptic reference to the Star of Bethlehem. Instead, as Europe began to wake up from the Dark Ages — during which time non-Christian books had been burned and all but eliminated — the phrase came to refer to the wisdom and ancient manuscripts returning to Europe from sources in the "Orient" (the Middle East and the Far East).

But also during the Middle Ages another facet of wisdom came from the East — Chess, a game that spread throughout Europe quickly after being introduced there by Moorish traders.

So, by attaching "and the Game of Chess" to the common phrase Ex Oriente Lux, the anonymous artist of the Chess Sphinx was perhaps a chess fan, making a statement that chess should be included as one of the great beacons of light shining in from the East!

But there is more. The phrase *"Ludus Scacorrum"* turns out to also be much more than simply "the Game of Chess" in Latin — it is also the title of an influential book written in the 14th Century almost exactly

In the *Ludus Scacorrum*, Chess was used to justify the Feudal system of the Middle Ages …

… it was the 2nd book ever printed in English, after the Bible!

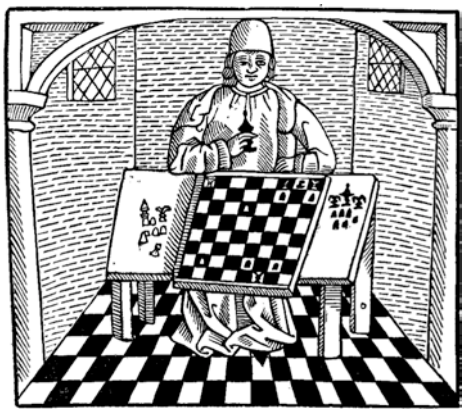
700 years ago, a long-forgotten book which nevertheless had a significant impact on the culture. Here is what I found about it:

"Ludus Scacorrum"

A Dominican scholar living in Italy named Jacopo (Jacobus, 1273-1322) was a player of chess, the game that had recently arrived in Europe and already become a favorite of the aristocracy. The chess pieces were evolving from their Arabic predecessors to include imagery more familiar to the people of Europe (i.e., the *Elephant* was renamed the *Bishop*).

Jacopo developed a theory about chess being a perfect mirror of European life, in great detail, even down to each of the 8 pawns.

About 1317-1320 he wrote his theory into a manuscript, no doubt as a way of ingratiating himself with the King, to whom he dedicated the book, which was called, *"De Moribus Hominum ed de Officiis Nobilum Super Ludo Scaccorum" (On the Customs of Men and Their Noble Actions with Regard to the Game of Chess)* … or the *"Ludus Scaccorum"* (as it came to be known, for short).



The book was a highly moralistic story of European society as it is reflected in

chess, with each social class of the aristocracy being symbolized by the major pieces —King, Queen, Bishop, Knight, Rook.

Furthermore, for the 8 pawns he identified 8 types of peasants and workers — Farm Laborers, Smiths, Notaries, Merchants, Physicians, Innkeepers, City Guards, and "Ribalds" (which apparently meant entertainers or "indulgers in licentious pleasures").

Even the eight ranks of the board were included in the symbolism, reflecting aspects of the city of Babylon from which he imagined the game came, having been supposedly invented by the king Xerxes.

A chapter is written for each of these social classes — and Jacopo describes each one in detail, including not only what the chess pieces should look like, but also how the corresponding person of that class should dress and behave, etc.

Each chapter has a nice illustration also, such as some examples shown here.

This book became quite popular because it fed into an idea that the rich aristocrats at the time wanted to perpetuate — that the feudal system in Europe with exalted Aristocracy and dutiful Peasants was perfect in its way and reflected the world as God and the Church wanted everything to be. The classes are made distinct and unchanging, each with its function, etc.

Chess was used to justify the Feudal system of the Middle Ages!

By the time the printing press was invented in the 15th Century the *Ludus Scaccorum* was so well known that it was one of the first books to get printed and published throughout the land – it was the 2nd book ever printed in English, after the Bible!

The "Old English" translation of the *Ludus Scaccorum* is available to view online, and it is fun to read a bit of it — the language and spelling is weird to modern eyes, yet not so different that you can't figure it out. But as one scholar noted, "and yet it is so remote as to seem like the echo of some unknown world."

Here is an example from the Chapter on *The Knight:*

"The knyght ought to be made alle armed upon an hors in suche wyse that he haue an helme on his heed and a spere in his ryght hande/ and coueryd wyth his sheld/ a swerde and a mace on his lyft syde/ Cladd wyth an hawberk and plates to fore his breste/ legge harnoys on his legges/ Spores on his heelis on his handes his gauntelettes/ his hors well broken and taught and apte to bataylle and couerid with his armes…
Also a knyght ought to be wise, liberall, trewe, stronge and full of mercy and pite and kepar of the peple and of the lawe/ …"

To translate:

"The knight ought to be made armed upon a horse in such ways the he have a helmet on his head and a spear in his right hand, and covered with a shield, a sword and a mace on his left side, clad with armor and plates on his breast, with leg harness on his legs, with spurs on his heels and on his hands his gauntlets; his horse well broken and taught to battle and covered with his arms …"

It then goes on to describe the social duties of the knight in great detail:

"… Also a knight ought to be wise, liberal, true,

strong, and full of mercy and pity, and the keeper of the people and the laws …" and so on, for several pages.

The Rook

It is interesting how the author handled the Rook in his social analysis of chess, which didn't appear to fit into his system. In most European languages (including Italian and Latin) the name for the rook means "tower" or "castle" as it does in English (with the exception that the Russian name "Ladya" means "ship"). Jacopo thus had a problem, how to change the understanding of this piece into something human that symbolizes the social structure he is pursuing in his theories?

He made it fit by supposing it represented the "Legate" (the legal representatives of the king) as follows:

"The rooks whiche ben vicaires and legats of the kynge ought to be made lyke a knyght vpon an hors and a mantell and hood furryd with meneuyer holdynge a staf in his hande/ & for as moche as a kyng may not be in alle places of his royame/ Therfore the auctorite of hym is gyuen to the rooks/ whiche represent the kynge …"

I would translate this as:

"The rooks, which being vicars and legates of the king, ought to be made like a knight upon a horse with a mantel and hood, holding a staff in his hand, and for as much as a king may not be in all places of his realm, therefore the authority of him is given to the rooks, which represent the king…"

In this way Jacopo was able to make the "bureaucrats" and "tax collectors" of the day fit into the chess-based social system.

Modern-day scholars love the book for the details it gives about life at this time and how society was supposed to be structured.

> *"The book enables us to gauge the literary culture of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. Poor as it may now seem, it belonged, in those days, to the 'literature of power,' and had great influence." (Scholar William E.A. Axon)*

Back to the mystery of the Chess Sphinx, the reference to the Ludus Scaccorum in this context, is not merely referring to the game of chess itself but also to this influential book, the moral order of the day, and the wisdom of the East shining upon the society of the West…

"And ther was founde by clerkes full prudent of the chesse the play most glorious." — JOHN LYDGATE.

Sources and Links:

Read the Ludus Scaccorum online here:
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/10672/10672-h/10672-h.htm

It includes a scholarly introduction.
https://sites.google.com/site/caroluschess/medieval-european-literature/my-reading-list/cessolis

Images and Ideas from the Chess960 Champions Showdown

by Tom Braunlich

September 12-15 in St. Louis saw yet another groundbreaking event at the famous chess club, sponsored by Rex Sinquefield — serious big-money matches of "Chess960" (Fischer-Random Chess) among 10 of the best GMs in the world.

Hear Bobby Fischer himself explaining how this variation, which he invented, is played:

https://chess960.net/how-to-play/

Sinquefield pronounced the experiment a success and promised to support it more in the future. Each match was worth $50,000, with $30K to the winner. If Sinquefield support leads to more such events, and if they continue to be as interesting to watch as this one was, this may prove to be the critical impetus Chess960 needs to eventually challenge traditional chess for use in serious chess tournaments; time will tell.

In the photographs presented here, which I took during a visit to spectate at the event, if you look closely you can see the "randomized" starting setups of the pieces on the back rank with which the players are struggling. It was evident that interesting tactical ideas often appeared right from the start.

Another innovation at this event was that each player had one hour of pre-game contemplation time to ponder each new starting position. They weren't allowed to leave the room or consult a computer, but they could talk amongst themselves or with their "seconds" if they had one. This led to some interesting conversations which spectators could watch and enjoy, such as the photos here of the great champion Kasparov discussing the starting position with eight-time Russian champion Peter Svidler.

We hope to hold some Chess960 events in the near future in Oklahoma as well…

Garry Kasparov played GM Vaselin Topalov in the exhibition. Here you can easily see the odd Chess960 starting position. Topalov won the match 14½ - 11½

Other Results:

Nakamura 14 – Svidler 12
Aronian 17½ - Dominguez 8½
Vachier-Lagrave 17½ - Shankland 8½
So 14½ - Giri 11½

Kasparov analyzing the opening with Svidler (above), with Giri looking on. Below the first three moves of their analysis appear on the board with Topalov!

U.S. Champion Sam Shankland vs. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

The venue.

Hikaru Nakamura is a long-time supporter of Chess960. He played in (and won!) a Chess960 blitz tournament I sponsored in Virginia over 12 years ago (when he was just 16 I believe), ahead of several GMs including Susan Polgar. Polgar gave a talk about Chess960 as Fischer was working on the rules for it while staying at the Polgar home for a while in 1992. The two played many games with it… they disagreed on how to handle the castling rule, but eventually settled on the current rule.

Anish Giri

Although the opening is unfamiliar and tense, soon the Chess960 play settles down into "normal" looking chess middlegames and endings, as shown here. The nice thing about Chess960 is that all the principles and tactics, all the middlegame strategy and endgame knowledge still apply – it's just that there is no opening theory for your starting position, so players are "on their own" from the very start.

Braunlich, Tom (2200)
Long, James (1990) [C02]
Tulsa Quads 2 (1.1), 25.08.2018
[TB]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.g3

This move was shown to me by Edward Wilson back in the 1970s, who was my age and went on to become an expert. The idea is not to fianchetto, but instead to put the bishop on h3, where it supports f4-f5 but doesn't block white's control of the d4 square as happens when this bishop is on d3. I had used it with success in the '80s in several key games, as well as for a painful loss to Tom Amburn at the Jerry Spann Memorial in '86. I thought I'd give it a try again…

6…Qb6 7.Bh3 Nge7 8.0-0 Ng6 9.dxc5 [9.Re1] 9...Bxc5 10.b4?!

This idea is premature.

…Be7 11.Qe2 Nxb4! 12.Be3

12… Bb5?

[Both of us had seen these tactics coming and evaluated them as good for us, and both of us overlooked something right at the start! The computer gives the simple refutation 12...Qa6! after which black comes out a pawn ahead.]

13.Qd1 Qc7 14.cxb4 Bxf1 15.Bxf1 0-0 16.Bd4 Bxb4

An unclear position. James thought it would be good for him, with R+2P for 2 pieces, and no weaknesses. The computer strongly favors white (0.80) but I doubt that. I thought it was dynamically equal, more or less.

17.Bd3

[17.Nc3 Bc5 *(17...Bxc3 18.Rc1±)* 18.Nb5 Qb6 19.Bd3± is the computer's main line, which doesn't look so convincing to me.]

17...Bc5 18.Bb2 Qb6 19.Qe2 Rac8 20.Nc3 Bb4 21.Nb5 a6 22.Nbd4±

[22.Bd4 Bc5 23.Bxc5 Rxc5 24.Nd6±]

22...Bc3 23.Rb1

23…Bxb2 24.Qxb2?

[It is poor judgment to trade queens here. White should keep them on and try to get a kingside initiative. 24.Rxb2 Qc7 25.h4 with some chances for White.]

24...Qxb2 25.Rxb2 Rc1+ 26.Kg2 b5 27.a4 bxa4 28.Ra2 Rc3 29.Bxa6

[29.Bxg6 hxg6 30.Rxa4 Ra8 looked drawish so I kept the bishop on, but James spots a nice combination in a few moves.]

29...a3 30.Be2

[30.Nb5? Rb3 31.Nfd4 *(31.Rxa3? Rxa3 32.Nxa3)* 31...Rb2 32.Rxa3 Nxe5 etc.]

30...Rb8!

TOP 25

For October 2018

	Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players			
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2563	-6	
2	Howard Zhong	2299	0	
3	Mark Hulsey	2222	0	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
7	Tom Patton	2109	0	
8	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	
9	Adonis Turner	2084	0	▲
10	John Cope	2084	0	▲
11	Charles D Unruh	2072	0	▲
12	Veronika Zilajeva	2072	0	▲
13	Logan Zachare	2070	-29	▼
14	Chuck Johnson	2063	0	
15	Anthony Paolercio	2062	-37	▼
16	David Luscomb	2054	0	
17	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
18	Matt Dalthorp	2040	0	
19	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	
20	Alan Islas	2024	0	
21	Joe Dean Veal	2009	15	▲
22	James Long	2006	0	▼
23	Jeff Colbert	1998	0	▼
24	Ryan Amburgy	1976	30	▲
25	Neil Naputo Sr	1972	0	▼

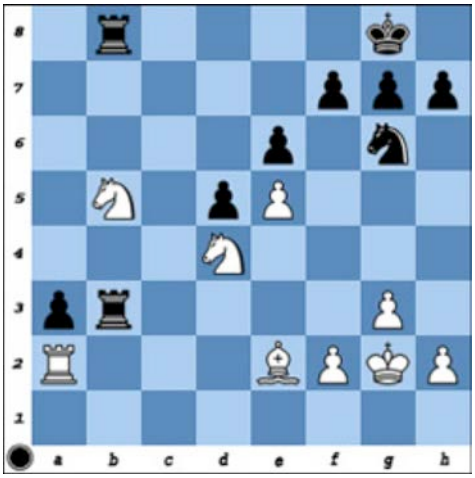
Player of the Month

RYAN AMBURGY

He raised his rating into the Top 25 for the first time after a strong showing in the Southwest Open and 2-game Match win over Logan Zachare…

[I was expecting only 30…Ra8 when I was hoping to eventually round up his a-pawn by some kind of clever piece transfer to the queenside, but James finds a better move. 31.h4 h6 32.h5 Ne7]

31.Nb5 Rb3 32.Nfd4

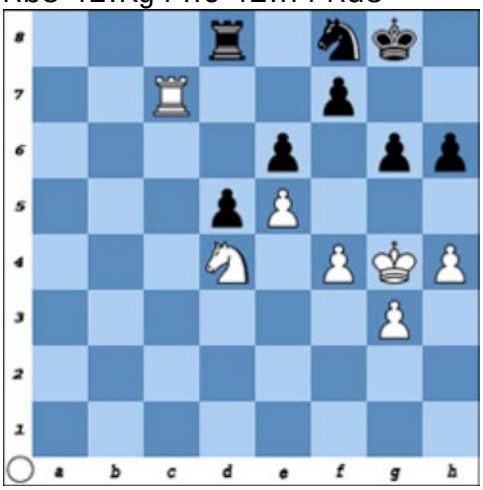


… Rb2! 33.Rxa3 Rxe2 34.Nxe2 Rxb5

So black cleverly traded down to a pawn-up ending, but fortunately for me I am left with much more active pieces and enough pressure to draw.

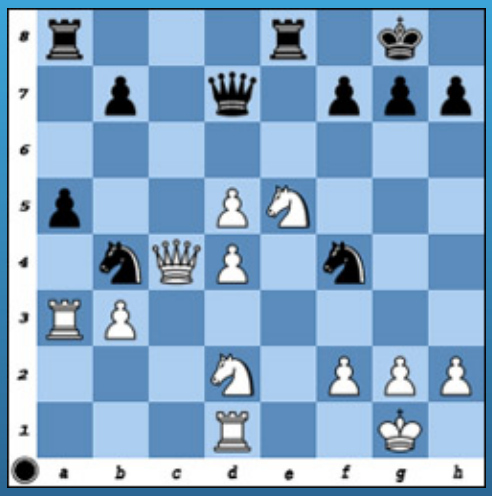
35.Ra8+ Nf8 36.Nd4 Rb6 37.f4 g6 38.Ra7! Rb2+ 39.Kf3 Rb6

[39…Rxh2 40.Nc6 threatening Nd8 with lots of counterplay (winning the f7 pawn) seemed too dangerous for black to allow, although the computer says black keeps a small edge with 40…h5! 41.Nd8 h4 42.gxh4 Rxh4 43.Rxf7 *(*The clever point of these last few moves by black is that he could now have met the preferable *43.Nxf7* with *43…Rh7ñ+)* 43…Rh7 44.Rxh7 Kxh7 45.Nf7 should still be a draw.] 40.Rc7 Rb8 41.Kg4 h6 42.h4 Rd8

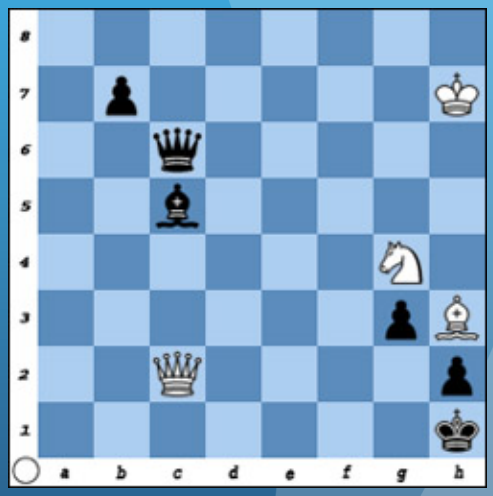


PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



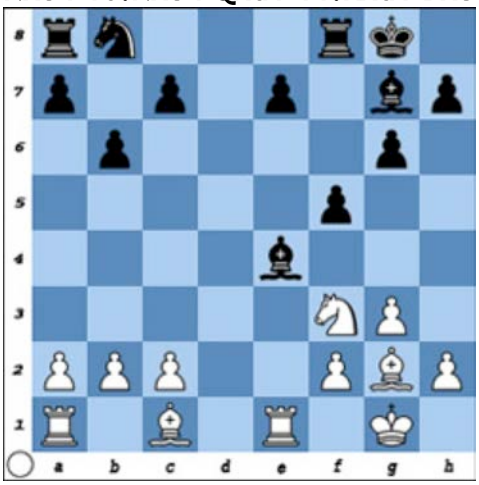
BLACK to move. (Medium)



WHITE to move. (Difficult)

43.h5 Rd7 44.Rxd7 gxh5+ 45.Kxh5 Nxd7 46.Kxh6 ½ - ½

Long, James (1990)
Devagharan, Devina (2100) [A05]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018 (4.4), 15.07.2018
[TB]
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 g6 5.d3 **d5 6.Nbd2 Bg7 7.Re1 0-0 8.e4!? dxe4 9.dxe4 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Bxe4 12.Re1 f5**



13.Rxe4!?
[A creative exchange sac. 13.Ng5 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Nc6 *(14...e5 15.Ne6=)* 15.Ne6=]
13...fxe4 14.Ng5 Be5 15.Bxe4 c6 16.Nf3 Bf6≥ 17.c3 Kg7 18.Bf4 Na6 19.Bxc6 Rad8 20.Ng5 Bxg5 21.Bxg5 Rf5 22.Be3 e5 23.Be4 Rf7 24.Bg5 Rd6 25.b4 Nc7 26.a3 h6 27.Be3 Nd5 28.Bxd5 Rxd5 29.c4 Rd3 30.c5 bxc5 31.Bxc5 Rfd7 32.Kg2 Rd1 33.Rxd1 Rxd1 34.Bxa7 Ra1 35.a4 Rxa4 36.Bc5 Ra3 37.h4 Kf6 38.Be3 h5 39.b5 Kf5 40.b6 Rb3 41.Kf3 Rb2 42.Kg2 Ke4 43.Bc5 Kd5 44.Be3 e4 45.g4 [I wonder how black will win if white just sits on this fortress and does nothing. 45...Ke5 46.Kg3 Rb1 47.gxh5 gxh5 48.f4+? Kf5 Now the black king can't be kept out of g4. 0-1

Turin, Joshua (2020)
Veal, Joe Dean (1980) [B08]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018 (4.5), 15.07.2018
[TB]
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 Nxe4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Nxe4 Rf8 8.c3 d5 9.Qb3 Nc6 10.Nc5 Qd6 11.Nxb7?
[11.0-0 Kg8 12.Re1 b6 13.Nd3=]
11...Bxb7 12.Qxb7

Continued on page 16...

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) From the game Bebchuck – Bronstein, USSR 1974. The great Bronstein here puts together several hidden tactical features to create a memorable combination: 1... Rxe5! 2. dxe5 Qg4! (Double threat of mate on g2 and also taking the rook on d1) 3. Qf1 (to defend both threats. Did the combination fail?) 3. ... Nh3+ 4. Kh1, Qxd1! 5. Qxd1, Nxf2+ 6. Kg1, Nxd1 0-1

(2) This composed puzzle was often used by Spassky in his public lectures: 1. Qc1+!, Bg1 2. Nf2+! (sealing in the black king to the corner) ...gxf2 3. Qxc6+ bxc6 4. Bf1! (Black can now only move his c-pawn)...c5 5. Kh6, c4 6. Kh5 c3 7. Kh4 c2 8. Kh3 c1=Q 9. Bg2 mate.

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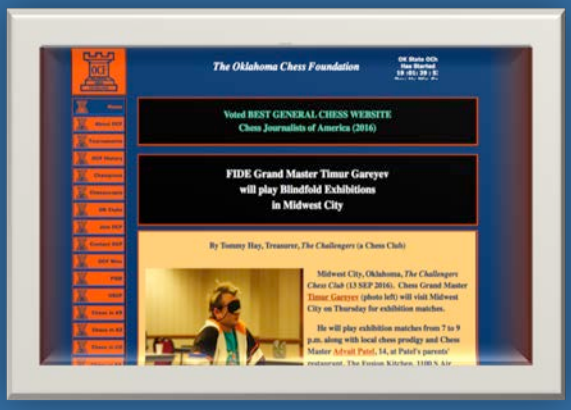
The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
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Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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Chess Journalists of America (2016)

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John Hall (1946 – 2018)

Influential Senior Master John Hall, of Dallas, passed away this year at age 71.

John Hall was a prolific chess book author and for many years one of the leading players living between New York and California, but played mostly in Texas where he scratched out a living at chess. He worked with Ken Smith at Chess Digest in the 1970s, and later with Lou Hays (Hays Publishing); and wrote many books and articles for their publications.

John Hall in 2015 from his Facebook page.

Hall had a photographic memory, and according to Bob Mapes, a friend of his, Hall could play three blindfold games simultaneously.

IM John Donaldson said about him, "He might be the answer to the question 'who is the strongest but least known player in the history of modern American chess'. Rated around 2450 USCF for much of his active playing career, Hall rarely played outside of his native Texas where he was twice state champion (1968 and 1973) and won the Southwest Open four times (1968, 1970, 1971 and 1991). … Hall was even better at blitz than over the board play and would give masters serious time odds and still consistently win money, albeit barely enough to get by even when combined with lessons and book royalties. He was living on the edge for most of his life and that was the case when he resided in San Francisco for six months in the 2000s."

Hall wrote dozens of books on openings with Ken Smith, including the earliest works on Smith's Smith-Morra Gambit, and his 1972 book *"A Complete Opening System for White: The King's Indian Attack"* was influential in Oklahoma in the '70s as I recall.

For Lou Hays, he contributed to the Hays updating and reprinting of Nimzovich's *My System* and *Chess Praxis*, and authored several instructional books in the 1990s like like *Combination Challenge* and *Endgame Challenge,* which I can recommend. He also annotated many Bobby Fischer games in the Hays book collecting the definitive compendium Bobby Fischer's games, which Donaldson says were "well done, consistently zeroing in on the key moments."

Surprisingly, the Okie Database contains no John Hall games. You can view an annotated game by IM Donaldson here at his weekly publication (issue #841) for the Mechanics Chess Club in San Francisco:

http://www.chessclub.org/news.php?n=841

Oh Capablanca

Recently the Chilean musician *Juga*, who is also a tournament chess player, produced what perhaps is the most-beautiful music video about chess ever made.

Check it out on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21QpsK7LRM4

Ron Luther **Wins Record 11th Missouri Championship**

Veteran NM Ron Luther spent his 60th birthday winning again the Missouri Open State Championship held September 15-16 in Columbia, MO, with a 4½/5 score. It was his 11th championship.

"I didn't have any great games; just played well, and fast, at the appropriate time," Luther said. The grueling last-round key game with Samuel Fowler (2116) was at one point winning for Fowler, but he made a mistake, turned down a perpetual, and lost.

NM Doug Eckert and Kaleb Gosdin tied for 2nd with 4/5.

Kansas juniors Sho Glashauser and Eddison Chen invaded Missouri to take home the "A" prizes.

Crosstable: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201809161542.1-12544320

Review by IM John Donaldson

Fabiano Caruana: His Amazing Story and His Most Instructive Games

by Alexander Kalinin
(New in Chess 2018, 207 pages,
figurine algebraic, paperback, $19.95)

This is the first book in English on the 2018 World Championship Challenger who will meet Magnus Carlsen for the title this November.

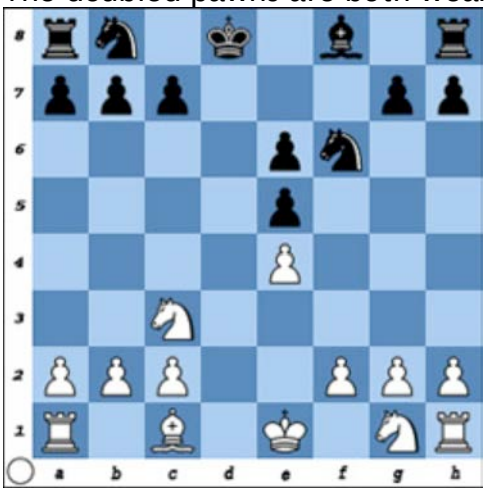
The centerpiece of this book is 62 Caruana games with notes by Kalinin, a Russian Grandmaster, trainer and author. They are well-annotated offering variations where needed, but also plenty of explanatory prose. The latter makes this book accessible to a wide audience of players from 1800 on up.

The first half of the book proceeds in chronological fashion with not only games, but plenty of biographical material. The second half consists of chapters arranged around parts of the game where Caruana excels - one example being the White side of the Berlin endgame that arises after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.B5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8. Qxd8+ Kxd8. This is the "Wall" that Kramnik used to shut down Kasparov and which has caused so many players to give up 1.e4 or start meeting 1...e5 with 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4. Kalinin present's two smooth victories by Fabiano in this line (including a win over Carlsen) that illustrate his principled and crisp play quite nicely and suggest the match this fall should be something special.

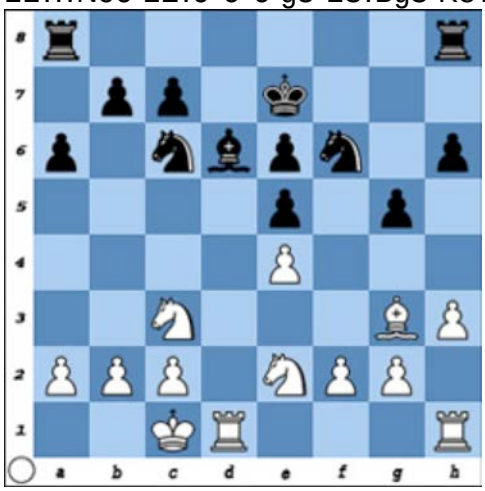
Photographs and indexes round out a first rate production. Recommended.

Paolercio, Anthony (2099)
Braunlich, Tom (2200)
[B07] Tulsa Quads 2, 25.08.2018
[TB]
In this rapid game from the 2nd Tulsa Quads we see an interesting and instructive endgame.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 I was working with one of my students on this defense for Black, so I thought I would try it in this game.
4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8
Although white is theoretically slightly better here, it is a "queenless middlegame" that always produces interesting play. I've had this position with both sides and it is always a tough fight.
6.Bc4 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6
The doubled pawns are both weak and strong.



8.Bg5
[8.f3 or 8.Be3 is the main move here. The text move does not score well for white in the database. Anthony apparently was confusing it with the move 6. Bg5, which is a main line too, instead of 6.Bc4. But combining the two together doesn't work well. It's a small inaccuracy, but in such subtle endgames that counts for a lot…]
8...Bd6 9.Nge2
White is angling for f2-f4, but my next move squelches that.
9...h6 10.Bh4
[He probably was not happy with 10.Be3 Ng4 11. Bd2, Ke7 12. f3 Nf6 -- in which although the computer says it is "=" I happen to know white is going to end up with a position similar to the main line but with the N on e2 misplaced, giving black comfortable play.
10...a6 11.h3
[11.f3]
11...Nc6 12.0-0-0 g5 13.Bg3 Ke7

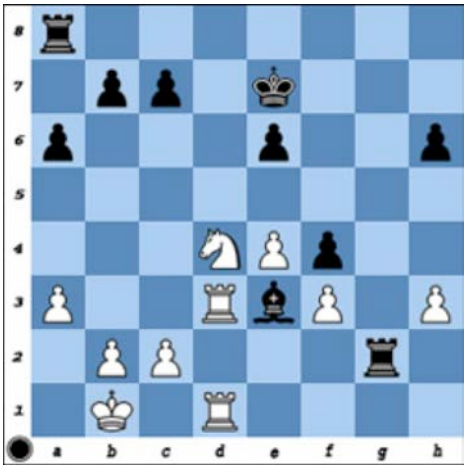


Black is already slightly better. White's plan of f2-f4 didn't happen, and he will now have to figure out how to redeploy his B to a more active square. This will give black time to get some initiative with moves like N-h5-f4 etc.
14.f3 Bc5
Grabbing the good diagonal to prevent white from playing Bf2.
15.a3 Be3+ 16.Kb1 Nh5 17.Bh2 Nf4
[17...Rad8]
18.Nxf4
White doesn't really want to take this knight and open the g-file for black, but there is no other way to protect the g2 pawn, since the black bishop is controlling g1 and preventing a rook from coming there, a recurring feature in the play that follows.
18 …gxf4
Of course black takes this way to open the g-file.
19.Ne2
A clever defensive try from Anthony. He plans to play g2-g3 if allowed, and also this move is aimed against black's intention to play …Nd4.

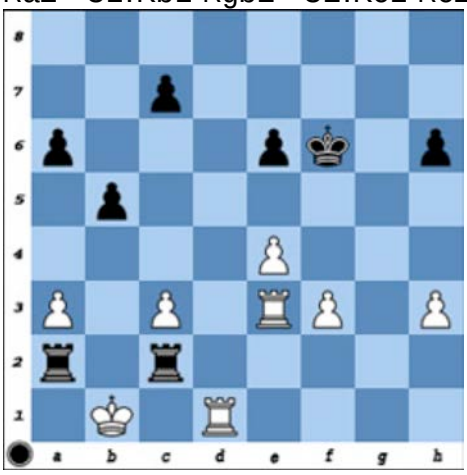
19…Nd4! 20.Bxf4!
Anthony was ready with this shot.

Black's main point was this instructive line: 20.Nxd4 exd4 21.g3 e5! This move — using the "spare" e-pawn that was once a weak doubled-pawn — preserved black's center and now white's kingside would have been terminally weak. For example, if he tries to close the kingside with 22.g4 there is 22...h5! winning for black. This pattern should be in your toolbox… black can first deploy his rooks on the kingside and only then open the position there with an exchange, followed by penetrating to the 2nd rank. And if white tries to exchange black's powerful bishop we have: 23.Bg1 hxg4 24.Bxe3 fxe3 25.fxg4 Raf8 etc.

20...exf4 21.Nxd4 Rhg8
White has won a pawn but he can't save the g-pawn, after which black will get dominant active rooks flowing in on the g-file and 2nd rank.
22.Rd3
There is an important tactical element here — the kind of thing you must be aware of. White can't defend his pawn with 22.Rh2? because of Rad8! pinning and winning the N because now white's Rook on d1 is unprotected. This unfortunate fact means Anthony is losing the g-pawn and will have to try to set up a fallback defense, but this will be hard with his position so cramped.
His move Rd3 is a good try — hoping at some point to get some counterplay with moves like Rb3 or Rc3.
22...Rxg2 23.Rhd1



23… Kf6!
This stops white's threat Rb3 followed by Nc6.
24.Nb3 [24.Rb3? Rd8 25. e5+ Kf7!]
24...Rag8 25.c3?
[25.Rd7 R8g7 26.Rxg7 Rxg7 squelches white's counterplay and leaves his N dominated; ie. 27.Rf1 Rg3 28.h4 Rh3 29.Na5 Rxh4 30.Nxb7 Rh2]
25...Rf2 26.Nd2
Attempting to hold the f-pawn is not going to work out.
26...Rgg2 27.Nc4
[27.Kc2 Kg5 is hopeless. At the right moment black trades everything and wins the h-pawn.]
27...b5 28.Nxe3 Rxb2+ 29.Ka1 fxe3 30.Rxe3 Ra2+ 31.Kb1 Rgb2+ 32.Kc1 Rc2+ 33.Kb1



Always in such positions the rooks only need one helper to deliver checkmate. In this case it will be black's a-pawn...
33… Rab2+! 34.Ka1 Rb3! 35.Rdd3
[35.Rd7 Rxa3+ 36.Kb1 Rcxc3 is hopeless also.]
35...Rxa3+ 36.Kb1 Raa2 37.Rd7 a5 38.Rxc7 a4 39.Ra7 Rcb2+
[Anthony's last trap: 39...a3?? 40.Rxa3=]
40.Kc1 Rh2 41.Kb1 a3 0-1

Oct 20 OCA State Blitz Championship Chandler, OK

Chandler Baseball Camp, 2000 Park Rd, Chandler, OK 74834 (one-hour drive from both OKC and Tulsa). **9-SS G/3+2inc.** Two sections: Open, U1700. **Prizes:** ?? **EF:** $25. **Info:** georuh@gmail.com

Oct 27 CENTER-STATE QUADS Chandler, OK

Chandler Baseball Camp, 2000 Park Rd, Chandler, OK 74834 (Just a one-hour drive from both OKC and Tulsa) 4-RR grouped by rating (3 total games with players near your rating in a round-robin.) G/45+15; Dual Rated. SPECIAL: *Food Truck by Green Acres Comfort Food restaurant on site for both breakfast (including before round 1) and lunch.* EF: (FREE Entry for new members to USChess, or those renewing membership at site after at least 18-month layoff.) Otherwise EF $15 cash or check at door, or advance entry by Paypal: www.paypal.me/Braunlich Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org

Oct 27-28 2018 SPRINGFIELD OPEN and SCHOLASTIC Springfield MO

5-SS, G/90+30, Co-hosted by MSU and Joplin Chess Clubs. Student Union Rm#308/312, 1110 E. Madison St., Springfield, MO. 1 Section, Open: $160, $125, U1600 $100, U1400 $75, U1200 $50. EF: $30 by 10/26, $40 at door. Scholastic (rating only) $15 by 10/26, $25 at door. Email entry accepted for lower rate. Reg.: 8-9:30. Rounds: Sat 10, 2:30, 7; Sun 10:00, 2:30. Info: joplinchess.org, martin.stahl@joplinchess.org, 417-483-1554 .

Nov 10 CARLSEN-CARUANA Watch Party and Chess Blast! Okla City, OK

Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK.
4-round double-Swiss Blitz games, part of a special non-rated fun tournament combined with big-screen TV group viewing of Game 2 of the Carlsen-Caruana match, with online grandmaster commentary! EF: $5 at door. $$Prizes: Fun Stuff. Time Control: Blitz games *based on the match game's current position throughout the day*. REG.: 9am-10am. Rounds: Championship Match Broadcast begins 10:00am — 1st round fun blitz at 10:30am.

- *Free Refreshments: Including Coffee, Tea, Doughnuts, Cookies.*
- *Live Internet Video: on large-screen TV the Match (starting at 10:00am).*

Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net

Dec 1-2 2nd STEVE WHARRY CLASSIC Tulsa, OK

5-SS; G/90+30; Wyndham Hotel Oklahoma City, 2945 Northwest Expressway, OKC 73112, (405)848-4811. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1600), Novice (U1200). EF: Novice: $30. Open & Reserve: $45 if mailed by 11/26, $50 at site. FREE entry for Masters 2200+ (deducted from prizes) Prizes $$2100 (based on 55 paid entries, 1st place guaranteed). Open: $500(G)-200 X: 200 A: 200-100, U1800: 200-100 Reserve (U1600): C: $200-100, U1400: 200-100, Novice: $$ per entries. Byes: One half-point bye Rds 1-5 if commit before Sat 9PM. REG: 9-9:45 Sat AM Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow OK 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org

12...e5!? [12...Rab8 13.Qa6 Nxd4? 14.Ng5+!; 12...Nxd4! 13.cxd4 Rfb8 14.Bf4 Rxb7 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.b3 Rc7!] 13.Qa6 [13.Nxe5+ Bxe5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Qb5 Rab8 16.Qe2 Rfe8=] 13...exd4 14.0-0 Kg8! 15.Qd3 dxc3 [15...Ne5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Bd2 Rab8 18.Rab1 c5 19.cxd4 Qxd4 20.Qxd4 Bxd4≥] 16.bxc3 Rae8 17.Ba3 Qxa3 18.Qxd5+ Kh8 19.Qxc6 Qxc3 20.Qxc3 Bxc3 21.Rac1 Ba5 22.Rc2 Bb6 23.h3 Kg7 24.Rd1 Re7 25.Rcd2 Rfe8 26.Kf1 Kf6 27.g4 h6 28.Kg2 Re2 29.Rxe2 Rxe2 30.Rd2 Rxd2 31.Nxd2 ½ - ½

Baker, Scott (1605)
Szabad, Istvan (1462) [A45]
Tulsa Quads 1 (3), 16.06.2018
[TB]

This was a well-played game by both sides.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d6 I have always thought the London opening is not so good if black can play ...d6, blunting the B on f4. Black will eventually engineer the move ...e5, gaining a tempo and equalizing in the center with a good game, as happens here. 3.e3 Bf5 4.c4 Nbd7 5.Nc3 e5 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.Bg3 c6 8.Bd3 e4 9.Bb1 Nc5 10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Nge2 Nd3+ 12.Bxd3 exd3 13.Nd4 Bg6

(See Diagram)

Such positions always interest me -- is the annoying passed pawn in the opponent's territory a strength or a weakness? Such pawns seem to be likely to get picked off, yet it often happens that they never do, or that while the opponent worries about winning the pawn you get great counterplay elsewhere...

14.0-0 [14.Kd2 Ne4+ 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.f3 Bb4+ 17.Kd1 Bg6≥] 14...Ne4 [14...Bb4] 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Bc7!? A clever idea to bring the London bishop to a more effective diagonal. 16...Rd7 17.Ba5 b6 18.Bc3 c5 19.Nb3 f6 20.Rad1 Be7 21.f3 Bg6 22.Nc1 0-0 23.Rd2 Rfd8 24.Rfd1 Kf8 25.e4 f5 26.Rxd3 Rxd3 27.Rxd3 fxe4 28.Rxd8+ Bxd8 29.fxe4 Bxe4 The d-pawn has been eliminated but not won. Black has a better endgame with the two bishops on an open board; not winning, but hard for white to defend. 30.b3 a5 31.Bd2 Bc7 32.Kf2 h6

[If 32...Bxh2 it will be trapped out of the game for a long time ruining black's winning chances, i.e. 33.g3 Kf7 34.Ne2 Ke6 35.Bf4 h5 36.Bc7 h4 37.Bxb6 hxg3+ 38.Nxg3 Bxg3+ 39.Kxg3 Bb1=] 33.h3 Kf7 34.g4 g5 35.Ne2 Bb1

[Better was 35...Ke6 ;

Tempting but wrong is 35...Be5 36.Nc3 Bd4+ 37.Ke2 Bxc3 38.Bxc3 Bb1 *(38...Bg2 39.Be5 Bxh3 40.Kf3 Bf1 41.Bc7 b5 42.cxb5 Bxb5 43.Bxa5=)* 39.a3!=] 36.Nc3 Bc2 37.Nd5

With this maneuver white has equalized.. But things are still complicated and in a rapid game time pressure is a factor...

37...Bd8 38.Bc3 Ke6 39.Ne3? [39.Bg7 a4 40.bxa4 Bxa4 41.Bxh6 Kf7=] 39...Be4 40.Bg7 Be7 41.Nf5? [41.Bxh6 Kf6 42.Nf5 is a tempo ahead of the game and draws: 42...Bxf5 43.gxf5 Kxf5 44.Bg7] 41...Bxf5 42.gxf5+ Kxf5 43.Kf3 [43.Bxh6? Kg6] 43...Kg6 44.Be5 Bd8 45.Ke4 h5 46.a4 g4 47.hxg4 hxg4 48.Bg3 Kh5 49.Kd5 Bh4 50.Bc7 g3 51.Bxg3 Bxg3 52.Kc6 Be1 53.Kxb6 Bb4 0-1